

CortlandNEWS

"The Good News Newspaper"

Vol. 21 No. 4

December 14, 2024

Serving the Lakeshore Communities

Christmas Spirit, Joy and Love in Cortland

By Alex Irman

The air in Cortland is crisp, a biting cold that promises a winter wonderland. Children, bundle in layers of wool and fleece, peer out their windows, their eyes fixed on the sky. They yearn for the perfect snowfall, a blanket of white that will transform their backyard into a snowy playground. The city sled hill, a local landmark, awaits its moment of glory.

Meanwhile, a different kind of anticipation stirs among the older folks. The ice fishermen, weathered and patient, check the lake daily. Mosquito Lake, a serene body of water, would soon become their winter fishing paradise. They dream of the day when the lake will freeze over, allowing them to drill holes in the ice and drop their hook and line to catch the biggest and best fish ever.

As the holiday season approached, a sense of excitement filled the air. The town square, adorned with twinkling lights and festive decorations, became a hub of activity. The aroma of freshly baked cookies and spiced cider wafted through the streets, enticing passersby. The local shops stocked up and decorated with anticipation of the



Photo by Paige Cody on Unsplash

annual Gingerbread Walk. Each shop with its unique charm, were filled with shoppers seeking the perfect gifts. Horse and carriage were on hand to transport people from shop to shop.

The annual tree lighting ceremony was held, another highlight of the season. Families gathered in the square;

their faces lit by the warm glow of the fire pits. Children sipped hot chocolate; their eyes wide with wonder as they waited for the arrival of Santa Claus. The city firetruck, its siren wailing, pulled up to the square, and Santa emerged, waving to the crowd. The tree, a newly planted Norway Spruce,

was illuminated, casting a magical spell over the park as favorite Christmas songs filled the air.

On Christmas Eve the community will come together once again for a special service at the local churches. Each church will be adorned with twinkling lights and fragrant pine boughs, creating a serene and spiritual atmosphere. Their choirs will fill the air with beautiful hymns, and the pastors will deliver a heartfelt message of hope and peace.

On Christmas morning, children will awaken to the sight of stockings filled with surprises. They rush downstairs, eager to unwrap presents and marvel at the wonders that await them. The city's streets will be quiet, as families enjoy the peaceful holiday together.

The Christmas season in Cortland will be a time of joy, love, and community spirit. The city's residents, young and old, will cherish the memories created during this magical time of year, forever grateful for the spirit of Christmas that fill their hearts.

From all of us at The Cortland News, we wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!

Don't Skip Christmas

By Pastor Brandon Byler, Calvary Bible Church

One of my favorite Christmas traditions takes place on the evening of Thanksgiving. After dinner, my family gathers and watches our favorite Christmas movie, Christmas With the Kranks. The movie follows Luther and Nora Krank after they send their daughter, Blair, off to the Peace Corp a few days after Thanksgiving. Feeling depressed, Luther devises a scheme to skip Christmas and take Nora on a cruise, a decision met with much resistance by his neighbors. Luther is a Scrooge-meets-Grinch whose heart

shrinks two sizes fighting the neighbors. His plan goes horribly wrong when Blair surprises Luther and Nora by flying home for Christmas the day before they are scheduled to leave. The neighborhood puts aside their grudges with Luther and helps him and Nora pull off a holiday miracle. It is a humorous and heartwarming story of a community coming together to help those who do not deserve it so they can enjoy Christmas with Blair.

Watching this movie this past week, I asked myself, what would my neighbors do if I acted like Luther? Would they love me or write me off? Do they even know me? For some of them,

they wouldn't hesitate to intervene and speak the truth in love so that I would not miss precious moments with my wife and children. Others, well, I'm not so sure. But it also got me thinking how I would respond to them! I would like to think that I would pick them up and love them like Jesus would have me to love them. I think for most of us the honest answer is, "It depends on who it is."

That is really a sad answer if we think about it. I am thankful that was not God's response to us! I am amazed that Jesus came on that quiet night in Bethlehem for all people to know His love and grace. It would be wonderful if everyone lived that way. Here is my

Christmas thought for this year: why not me? If I live this way and you live this way, we're on our way to making our neighborhoods happier places where we can enjoy, help, and love each other.

I grew up in Trumbull County and a lot has changed. What hasn't changed is we all want to be treated well. There's something about Christmas that brings out joy in people, and the reason is that Christmas is a reminder of God's love for us. Let's not waste the season. Make amends, strengthen relationships, and enjoy your family. I pray you find true peace and joy this Christmas as well as offer it to others. Merry Christmas!

2025: A Bright New Year For Cortland

By Jim Woofter, Publisher

Cortland is poised for a bright future in 2025. With significant investments and community initiatives on the horizon, the city is gearing up for a year of growth and development.

One of the most exciting developments is the planned construction of a new combined service center for the fire, police and administrative departments. Thanks to a generous state grant of \$2.15 million, this project will provide modern and efficient facilities for essential services. The city's dedication to education will continue to be a driving force. The

local school district is implementing innovative programs to prepare students for success in the 21st century. From STEM initiatives to arts and music education, Lakeview schools are providing a well-rounded education for all students.

Community events and activities will also play a significant role in shaping Cortland's future. Local festivals, farmers markets and cultural events will bring people together and foster a sense of belonging. The city's parks and recreational facility improvements offer opportunities for outdoor activities and

healthy living.

In addition to infrastructure improvements, Cortland is committed to fostering a vibrant community. Local businesses are expanding, creating new job opportunities and contributing to the local economy. Community events and gatherings are planned to bring residents together and strengthen the sense of belonging.

As the city looks ahead, there's a palpable sense of optimism. With dedicated community leaders and a supportive population Cortland is well-positioned to thrive in the years to come.

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Advertiser Index 2
 Business 4
 Calendar 3
 Faith 8, 9
 Finance 12
 Government 5, 6
 Insurance 13
 Library 18
 School..... 10, 11
 Business Card Ads 20

CortlandNews.net

ADVERTISER INDEX

4 Star Diner 10
 Action Physical Therapy 6
 Affordable Self Storage 12
 Attorney Bill Brooker..... 13
 Apostolakis Honda 10
 Barzak Agency 11
 Bazetta Christain Church 4, 8
 Berkshire Hathaway, Stouffer Realty . 11
 Black Cat Tax 4
 Burkey Burkey & Scher 16
 Calvery Bible Church 8
 Centerra 3
 Champion Tax Service 11
 Church of the Nazarene 9
 Clearview Lantern Suites..... 17
 Coopers Fitness + Athletic Training ... 14
 Cortland Christian Church..... 8, 9
 Cortland Healthcare 14
 Cortland Lanes 6
 Cortland News 11
 Cortland Pediatrics - Dr. Johnson 18
 Cortland United Methodist Church 8
 Countryside Vet/ Adopt A Pet 7
 Custom Countertops & Kitchens 9
 Daffron Auto Body..... 5
 Davenport & Rohrabough 3
 Edward Jones..... 5
 Emery Agency 20
 Enzo's Restaurant..... 6
 Gillette Nursing Home..... 20
 Greenwood Insurance 18
 Guidelight Financial Group..... 7
 Journey Christian Church 8
 Mark Thomas Ford 15
 Mayflower-Wollam Insurance..... 17
 MD Denna Heating and Cooling..... 16
 Mecca Community Church 9
 Midway Garage Door..... 13
 Music 101 18
 Ohio Living - Lake Vista 20
 Petrosky Brothers 12
 Pizza Joe's..... 16
 Prince of Peace Lutheran Church 9
 Ruddy Insurance Group 12
 S.A. Anderson Electric LLC 20
 Salvatore's 14
 Santa 3
 Shafer Winans 17
 Sparkle 12
 Totally Dog..... 11
 Trinity Evangelical Lutheran 9
 Trumbull Co. Public Health 10
 United Way 4
 Vasilio's 7
 Veteran's Outreach 10
 Warren Trumbull Co Public Library 18
 Wildare Church 8
 Wiley Insurance Services 20

See Business Cards on Page 20

CORTLAND CITY

CITYOFCORTLAND.ORG

Mayor	330-637-4003	POLICE/FIRE EMERGENCY	911
City Hall	330-637-3916	Dispatch	330-675-2730
Fax	330-637-4778	Police - Business	330-638-1000
Clerk of Council	330-638-0142	Fire - Business	330-637-2891
Service Director	330-637-4637		

MEETINGS

CITY COUNCIL

First and Third Monday of each month.
 Monday, Dec 16 - 7 p.m.
 Monday, Jan 6 - 7 p.m.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Second Monday of each month
 Monday, Jan 13 - 5:30 p.m.

PLANNING & ZONING

Second Monday of each month
 Monday, Jan 13 - 7 p.m.

CORTLAND CITY COUNCIL

Read the minutes from
 Cortland City Council meetings at
 www.cityofcortland.org under City
 Council Minutes.

Meetings and agenda of Council and
 Planning meetings area available at
 www.cityofcortland.org

BAZETTA TOWNSHIP

BAZETTATWP.ORG

Admin Building	330-637-8816	FIRE - POLICE - RESCUE	911
3372 State Route 5 ...fax:	330-637-4588	Police Department	330-638-5503
Trustees, Clerk, Zoning Inspector		Fire Station #11	330-637-4136
and Cemetery Sexton	330-637-8816	3000 Warren Meadville Rd	
Road Department	330-637-8311	Non Emergency Calls ...	330-675-2730

BAZETTA TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETINGS

Regular meetings the second Tuesday of each month, unless otherwise noted.

Tuesday, Jan 14 - 7 p.m.

A 60 minute caucus with department heads preceding.

Meetings held via ZOOM. Visit www.bazettatwp.org

THE CORTLAND BAZETTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS

The Second Wednesday of each month at 5 PM at The Opera House

LAKEVIEW BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

Regular meetings the second Monday of each month at 6 p.m.
 in the Lakeview High School Media Center, unless otherwise noted.

Monday, Jan 13 - 6 p.m.

Area Service Clubs

Bazetta Cortland Optimist Club		Four Seasons Garden Club	
Steve Rock	330-240-1634	Nancy Finlay	330-637-8931
Cortland Bazetta Historical Society & Museum		Johnston Senior Center	
Sally Lane	330-638-2330	Diana Shimko	330-924-0412
Cortland Lions Club		Warren City Federation of Women's Clubs	
Dawna Wiland	330-219-9852	Terri Crabbs	330-637-3845
Cortland Masonic Lodge		American Assoc of University Women	
Chuck Chagnot	330-307-3405	Ruth Bradshaw	330-307-1151
Cortland Moose Lodge		League of Woman Voters	
Bill Bartholomew	330-637-9957	Peggy Boyd	330-856-5398
Cortland Rotary Club		Cortland Area Cares	
Dennis Nisbett	330-719-8629	Donna Kittle	330-637-0821
Cortland SCOPE		Friends of the Cortland Library	
Terri Donahue	330-980-5363	(Cheryl Bush or Karen Murphy) ..	330-637-2717
Cortland Opal CH 181, O.E.S		Lakeview Outreach and Fellowship	
Carla Kahler	330-856-2356	(LOAF)	330-720-9136
The Opera House (Event Rentals)			
Maribeth Albu	330-219-1488		

Please contact the Cortland News if you would like your organization listed here.

Our Next Issue ... January 11, 2025

Our theme will be

Happy New Year

Article Deadline by Dec 30 • Display Advertising Deadline is Jan 2

Email articles to editor@cortlandnews.net

The mission of the Cortland News is to focus on the positive aspects and events of our community. Our goal is to inspire pride and bring the residents of our community closer to one another by providing accurate, timely and useful information. We hold ourselves to high standards of journalism and strive to be a source of trust for our readers.

Based on the policy of the Cortland News to print positive news about our community, we reserve the right to reject contributed material considered inappropriate. We reserve the right to edit information accepted for publication for accuracy, style, length, spelling, grammar, and clarity.

The Cortland News wishes to present a fair and accurate news report. If you have a concern about anything published, please call our office at 330-565-2637 and leave a message for our Manager or Editor.

Death notices and obituaries will be printed in the Cortland News at the request of the family. Arrangement should be made to have information for death notices and obituaries sent directly to the Cortland News from the funeral home. Space restraints may require some editing. Publication dates for the Cortland News may prohibit an obituary from appearing prior to a funeral or memorial service.

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 Lakeside Sport Shop Top Notch Diner

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We do not keep regular office hours but if you leave us a message, we will return your call as soon as possible.

The Cortland News will no longer be accepting any facsimile "fax" documents. Please direct all communications to the following email addresses.

Article submissions to:
editor@cortlandnews.net

Display and classified advertising and photographs to:
sales@cortlandnews.net

The Cortland News is published every three weeks free of charge and mailed via USPS to over 5000 area residents and businesses in Cortland and parts of Bazetta Township.



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While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this newspaper, the Cortland News cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions.

Community Events

Cortland City/Bazetta Township and Lakeview School Board meetings and schedules. See pg. 2 & 15

Lakeview Local School activities and sports schedules visit www.lakeviewlocal.org.

American Red Cross blood donations, various dates. www.redcrossblood.org or 1-800-733-2767.

Cortland Public Library - Check out the ongoing events on page 18
<https://wtcpl.org/locations-hours/cortland-library/>

Cortland Senior Center - Open Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Cortland Christian Church.

Charity Benefit Pancake Breakfast, [1st Saturday] 9 a.m.-noon, Cortland Masonic Lodge, 3263 Everett-Hull Road (E. Main Street).

Church Events - See the Church News and Notes on the Faith pages.

Trumbull County Combined Health District has numerous free upcoming Vaccine Clinics. See their website or the article in this issue.

DECEMBER

14 Lakeview Schol Bands Free Concerts / High School Auditorium / 6 p.m.

8th grade Band & Choir Concert / 7 p.m. High School Band & Choir Concert

15 LOAF Christmas Concert with the Cortland Community Band

Lakeview High School Auditorium / 2 PM

15 The Youngstown Area Jewish Film Festival is presenting "Dreaming of a Jewish Christmas" / JCC of Youngstown, 505 Gypsy Lane / 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

21 Live Nativity / Bazetta Christian Church / 4-7 PM

21 God Provides A Meal / Cortland Methodist Church / 11 AM - 1 PM

Menu: Stuffed pork chop, mashed potatoes & gravy, carrots, dessert, & beverage

22 Cortland Community Band Concert (in front of Santa) / Eastwood Mall / 3 PM

JANUARY

4 Charity Breakfast benefitting Cub Pack 4025 / Masonic Lodge / 9 - 11:30 AM

11 SCOPE Senior Showcase / Robbins Theater / 2 PM

18 Charity Breakfast benefitting Scout Troop 4008/5025
Masonic Lodge / 9 - 11:30 AM

The Final Invention

Special to The Cortland News

Hope to find the perfect gift for friends or family members this holiday season? What if you could give them a present that would entertain them, build their knowledge, and at the same time provide large charitable donations for those in need?

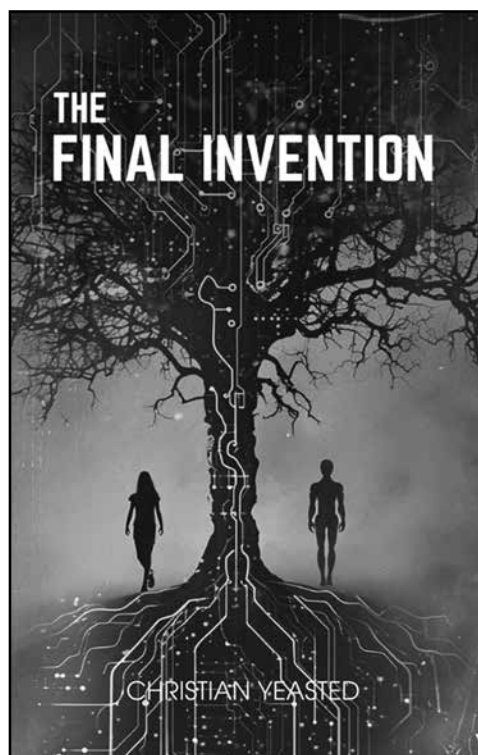
This can all be done with one gift: *The Final Invention*.

As you know, the potential benefits and threatening perils of artificial intelligence have been increasingly expressed in the media. To help further educate the lay person on AI, Dr. Christian Yeasted has recently authored a book titled *The Final Invention*, and every dollar made from sales of this book will be forwarded directly to charity.

Dr. Yeasted is an Ethicist and Family Medicine physician serving the local Youngstown community. While maintaining a clinical practice in Youngstown and also teaching medical students and residents in primary care, he spent many years researching the ethics of artificial intelligence and how it relates to the future of humanity.

At this time of year with gift giving in mind, his novel *The Final Invention* may be the way to introduce your friends and family to the possibilities and potential dangers offered by artificial intelligence. This book would be a generous gift for anyone wishing to embark on the knowledge of the burgeoning field of AI.

While *The Final Invention* has received acclaim and covers a topic of increasing importance, what matters most is the positive impact the book can have for the less fortunate. Dr. Yeasted's goal is to raise \$5,000 in book sales during the holiday season. Half the proceeds will go to Feed My Starving Children (check them out on Charity Navigator at <https://www.charitynavigator.org/ein/411601449>), and the other half will go to the Rescue Mission of Mahoning Valley.



Dr. Yeasted believes strongly in the mission of both these organizations, one of which feeds and houses the local community, the other feeds the least fortunate children around the world.

The Final Invention is available in paperback, ebook and audiobook. Remember, all proceeds remaining (after Amazon or other sales platform fees) go to the above charities. To maximize your contribution, Dr. Yeasted can get you a book directly so all your money goes straight to the cause.

If you like, you can reach him directly by emailing him at cyeastedthefinalinvention@gmail.com or through the website authorcyeasted.com.

Thank you for your time. Enjoy the holidays, enjoy reading and learning, and enjoy the good you can do for others!

Cortland Community Band Concerts

By Stephanie Kommel

The Cortland Community Band has two more holiday concerts in December. The first is the annual LOAF Concert at the Lakeview High School auditorium on Sunday, December 15 at 2 pm. There will also be a choir comprised of community and local church members that will perform as well. Every year the LOAF organization has this concert to raise funds for community projects but collecting donations at this concert. In the past the money that was donated was used to purchase rescue discs for the police department and other important community needs.

Next, we have a concert on Sunday, December 22nd at the Eastwood Mall, at 3 pm right in front of Santa (and Macy's, just up from the food court). You can

bring a chair to sit in to watch if you wish.

After the holidays we will start rehearsals for our spring/summer concert season. They will be at 7pm on Wednesdays at the Lakeview Middle School band room. All musicians of any level are welcome to join. There is no membership fee and no auditions, just dust off your instrument or drum sticks and come on out.

Rehearsals will begin either on January 8th or 15th, depending on the school's schedule and room availability. Interested musicians can follow us on Facebook under Cortland Community Band for updates on when we'll begin, or they can email the band at cortlandcommunityband@yahoo.com to request that they be added to the email list.

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A "1 In A 'Minion'" Christmas Display

Christmas is here in Bazetta and Cortland. Homes are decorated inside and out, snow is on the ground and all the children are anxiously awaiting the arrival of Santa Claus. One of the many displays you may want to see is the home of Tiffany and Jeff Scherer. The corner of East Main Street and Maple Avenue is exploding with Christmas - over 50 inflatable Christmas characters and one very large 'Santa Skelton'. It is

worth the trip to see it twice - once in the day and again at night.

The Scherers decorate with inflatables all year long, celebrating many different holidays. They never disappoint.

"I just want people to drive by and enjoy the displays as much as I do" said Jeff Scherer.

We think you will enjoy it also. Merry Christmas to Lakeview from the Scherers.

Merry Christmas!



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Cortland Lions Donates To Growlin Howland Browns Backers Toys For Tots Drive

The Cortland Lions Club donated \$400 worth of toys to the Growlin Howland Browns Backers Toys for Tots Drive on November 17th at the Iron House Bar and Grill. Pictured are Dawna Wiland President of the Cortland Lions Club and Kris Vadas Chairman of the Growlin Howland Browns Backers. The Cortland Lions Club thanks our community for your support in our various Fund-Raising Events making this donation possible.



Happy Holidays



United Way



United Way of Trumbull County

Thank You Trumbull County!

295 Harmon Ave. NW
 Warren, OH. 44483
 330-369-1000



Cortland Tree Lighting



Santa and Mrs. Claus came to town to help light the Christmas tree on Small Business Saturday. There was excitement all day as lots of vendors and local merchants hosted the crowd who braved inclement weather. The Cortland News joins Santa in encouraging everyone to shop local and support your local businesses all year long. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Cortland PD Flock Camera Program Its Not What You Think

By Chief David Morris



The mission of the Cortland Police Department is to reduce crime and the fear of crime through the enforcement of laws, working with citizens to preserve the peace and to intervene in conduct widely recognized as threatening to life and property. The department is committed to protecting constitutional guarantees, assisting those who cannot care for themselves and resolving conflict, all while creating and maintaining a feeling of security within the community.

One of the solutions utilized by the CPD to reduce crime, create and maintain a feeling of security within the community and assisting those who cannot care for themselves is the use of Flock Cameras. Flock cameras are stationary License Plate Recognition Cameras placed in strategic locations throughout the city. These cameras read the license plates of vehicles entering the city and alert officers of wanted persons, stolen vehicles, protection orders and parolees, gang members or suspected terrorists and sex offenders. The plate readers can also be used in investigations to identify suspect vehicles. Flock cameras are NOT speed or traffic enforcement cameras and are not designed or used for that purpose.

CPD began using Flock cameras in March of 2024, which has been primarily funded through almost \$60,000.00 in grants received from the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services and a very small portion of city ARPA funds. To date, no local police levy funds have been used to finance the program. The department will continue to pursue grants to fund the Flock camera program in the future, which is around \$30,000.00 per year. Unfortunately, without receiving such grants it is unlikely our current levy budget could sustain our Flock program.

Since using the Flock cameras, our department has had the following successful results:

- Identified a man that followed an elderly woman home, causing her alarm, and discovered he needed help with a deteriorating mental health condition.
- Was able to assist the Pennsylvania State Police in an investigation where they recovered 35 checks that had been stolen from the Cortland Post Office drop box.
- Arrested a registered sex offender on a felony methamphetamine warrant.
- Arrested a person with a misdemeanor warrant and it was discovered he had a suspended driver's license.
- Assisted Bazetta Police in recovering an occupied stolen vehicle with an arrest.
- Located a suicidal missing person and was able to get them the help they needed.
- Assisted the Ohio State Patrol in identifying a vehicle that fled from a trooper on SR 46 near SR 305 who was traveling over 130 mph resulting in the arrest of the suspect.
- Arrested a person with an assault and aggravated menacing warrant. The passenger in the vehicle was found to be wanted for felony drug possession.
- Identified a vehicle involved in a hit-skip crash in Cortland

- Identified a person making threats to kill law enforcement officers.
- Recovered a stolen license plate which resulted in the driver being arrested for receiving stolen property, fictitious plates, driving a commercial motor vehicle without a proper license and over width.
- Located a missing person from Kent that was suffering from a mental health crisis and got them the help they needed.
- Recovered a stolen license plate which resulted in the driver being arrested for receiving stolen property, possessing criminal tools, OVI with a refusal, obstruction official business, open container in a motor vehicle and driving under suspension. He was found to have a 50+ page criminal history.

These examples are the most significant Flock hit results. This does not include the hundreds of notifications of sex-offenders, supervised release and protection order suspects received.

Finally, a key component of our mission statement is protecting (the) constitutional guarantees of our residents and those traveling through Cortland. These cameras do not record personal information, and the use of these cameras are regulated similarly in the same way as the Ohio Law Enforcement Automated Database (LEADS), Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway (OHLEG) and other law enforcement sensitive databases used by officers. Misuse of any of these systems would cause an officer to face administrative and/or criminal penalties, which are taken very seriously. The system has an integrated auditing system to hold officers accountable for its proper use.

Using Flock Cameras as part of our law enforcement operations is like having an alarm system on our city to alert officers to dangerous criminals, stolen vehicles and/or missing persons, many times suffering from a mental health crisis. It is a force multiplier we hope to continue using in our quest to keep you safe!

Should you have any questions, please feel free to call Chief David Morris at (330) 638-1000 ext. 0601 or email at dmorris@cityofcortland.org.



Trumbull County Residents Care for Their Communities

By Lt Daniel Morrison, OSP

The sixth annual Trumbull County wide "Can the Cruiser", "Fill the Pot" food drives saw residents step-up in a big way for our communities. Between all four collection points in Bazetta, Champion, Howland, and Niles, 13,845 Lbs. of food donations were collected along with \$7,312 in cash donations.

The collected food and cash will be donated to Niles Community Services,

Cortland Area Cares, Bolindale Christian Church Food Pantry, Howland Community Church Food Pantry and the Champion Pride Council. The Niles Police Department, Howland Fire Department, Howland Police Department, Bazetta Police Department, Champion Police Department, and the Ohio State Highway Patrol would like to say "Thank You" to all who donated.

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Merry Christmas

During this holiday season, we wish you all the best.

Ted Stazak, CFP®, AAMS®
1889 Niles Cortland Road Ne
Warren, Oh
330-856-7082

Stacey L Rozzo
4753 Mahoning Ave Nw
Warren, Oh
234-830-0035

Eric Vitelli
Howland Square
8015 East Market St.
Warren, Ohio 44484
330-856-9665

MKT-9811E-A AECSPAD 23794340

Cortland Lodge Holds Two Charity Breakfasts In January

The next two charity fund-raiser pancake breakfasts will be held on Saturday, January 4th, and Saturday, January 18th, from 9 AM to 11:30 AM at the Cortland Masonic Lodge located at 3263 Everett-Hull Rd. (E. Main St.) in Cortland.

The beneficiaries will be Cub Scout Pack 4025, and Scout Troop 4008/5025. The public is invited, and both Scout organizations will have information available about their program and activities. The charity breakfasts are held monthly by the Masonic Lodge, which donates all the meal supplies

so that 100% of the proceeds can be donated to a local charity.

In December, the Masonic Lodge breakfast benefitted the Sleep in Heavenly Peace program which builds beds for children who do not have a bed to sleep on --- marking over \$60,000 raised by the lodge for local charities since the breakfasts were initiated about 4 years ago.

The "all you can eat" breakfast costs \$9.00 for adults, and \$6.00 for youth age 6 to 10 and FREE for any children age 5 and under. Included are pancakes, eggs, sausage, juice, and coffee, with take-outs available.



Just The Facts - Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer aired on TV for the first time on December 6th in what year?

- a. 1954
- b. 1964
- c. 1974
- d. 1984

Salvation Army Angel Tree - Thank you so very much for the generosity shown by everyone that bought gifts for the Angel Tree! We were able to help make Christmas a little merrier for 75 children this year!

Sidewalk Reminder - As an owner or occupant, it is your responsibility to keep sidewalks free from snow and ice.

Republic Services - Trash and recycling pickup Will Be delayed by one day due to the Christmas holiday.

Higher Water Usage? - Running toilets and leaking faucets are the most frequent causes of higher water use. You can check to see if you have a leak several ways:

- Take a meter reading before you go to bed when no one will be using

water. In the morning, take another reading - if there is a change, water ran through the meter overnight and you may have a leak.

- Place a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Do not flush the toilet. If after 15 minutes color shows up in the bowl, the toilet has a leak.

- Check to see if the water level in the tank is too high and spills into the overflow tube.

Leaky toilets can usually be repaired inexpensively, but even a small leak over several months can make a large difference in your bill.

City Administration Offices will be closed December 24th and 25th in observance of the Christmas holiday and January 1st for New Year's Day.

Dates to Remember

December 16th - City Council - 7 p.m.
January 6th - City Council - 7 p.m.

Just The Facts Answer - b. 1964

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from City Hall!



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County Recorder Receives State Award

On November 20th The Ohio Recorders' Association (ORA) recognized Trumbull County Recorder Tod Latell as a 2024 Golden Quill award winner at their annual Winter Conference and banquet in Dublin Ohio for his diligent commitment to the association and his office.

Each year, the members of the association are asked to nominate a recorder in good standing whose commitment to the ORA includes contributing to the standardization of filing practices in offices state-wide, the exchange of ideas and experiences that elevate and improve the overall office of Ohio County Recorder, and the promotion of research, development, and preparation for legislation that develops better administration of the Ohio Recorder's Offices while cultivating unity among the members.

"I am humbled to be nominated by my peers from across the state and to receive this award" Latell said. "My team and I have always worked to improve the functionality of our office for Trumbull County residents and being recognized for helping other recorders enhance their offices is such an honor", he added.

Latell has served on the ORA's legislative committee since 2020. He represented the association as a delegate with the Ohio Council of County Officials (OCCO) and as their sole delegate with the International Association of Government Officials (IGO). In 2023, Latell was named the Recorder's Division Director for IGO representing the ORA and Trumbull County across the country.

The Golden Quill award is the highest honor a county recorder in Ohio can receive.



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Girl Scouts Help Healthy Hearts & Paws

By Sarah Gyure



Girl Scout Troop 80161 celebrated 'Pupsgiving' when their community service project came full circle in November. The girls have been collecting donations for their Dog Drive from the Cortland area since August through an Amazon wish list, walking door to door and a drop box on their leaders' porch. Through the support of the community the girls were able to donate over \$800 worth of needs for Healthy Hearts and Paws in Warren.

Continued on page 13

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If you'd like to learn more about the animals available for adoption through All About the Pawz, visit <https://www.allaboutthepawz.com/>

RIGGS

- Neutered Male, 2 years old
- Riggs is dog-friendly, has a great personality and always has a huge smile on his face.
- He has been in shelter since Oct. 2022 and is in need of some training, so please give him the chance he deserves to live a wonderful life and he can reward you with being your loyal companion.

To meet Riggs, please message the Healthy Hearts and Paws Project Facebook page, email our Adoption Coordinator at jcassidy1975@gmail.com, or fill out an adoption application at <https://healthyheartsproject.org/>.

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Faith News



Brought to you by

Cortland United Methodist Church

Rev. Jonathan Williams, Pastor

Service 10:00 am Sunday

155 N High St - Cortland OH 44410

330-637-2571

CortlandUMC1880@gmail.com

Spreading the Message

Rev Charles Hargenrader, Church of the Nazarene



Is Something Missing From Your Garden?

By Rev. Dr. David Gilbert, Pastor Cortland Christian Church

Ever wonder why gratitude is so difficult sometimes? I was reading the story of Adam and Eve again the other day and a thought came to me. Recall that Adam and Eve weren't given all the fruit in the garden. They were given almost all the fruit, but there was one tree whose fruit was forbidden for them to have; it was beyond their created reach. And where does God place this forbidden fruit in the garden? Not off to some corner where they could easily forget about it. No, God planted this forbidden tree in the middle of the garden, --- which means that every day when Adam and Eve passed by this tree, --- they were reminded that "This is something you're not going to get to have. You were never created to have it all."

Every one of us has been placed in the garden called life, a garden that has been created by God, and every one of us has something missing in our garden. Now, I don't know what is missing in your life. I know what's missing in mine. It could involve a particular type of relationship that you've always wanted. It could involve something at work. It can be a health issue. It can be something from your past that you're never going to be able to fix. It could be a dream for the future that is never

going to come true. What I do know, is that the biblical description of our life has made it clear that God has created all of us and placed us in gardens where there is something missing and we confront it every day.

Which drives us nuts, right? There can be nine hundred and ninety-nine wonderful trees in your garden which you can freely go to and take fruit from because it is blessed by God for you, but where do we pitch our tent? Under this one piece of fruit that we do not have. And we yearn for it insatiably. And we want to know why we can't have it: Other people have this. Why can't I? What am I going to do about this one thing that I don't have?

The older I become the more I am convinced that this may be the most important question we face. What kind of steward are we going to be of this thing that's missing in our life? It doesn't have to drive us nuts. It can become an altar, a call to worship, an invitation to prayer ---so that we give our attention to the many ways in which we have been blessed. To the nine hundred and ninety-nine trees of blessing that we can freely go to and enjoy! And so, become grateful for our life again ... and what do grateful people most want to do, but give?

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace"
~ Isaiah 9:6

Lakeview Outreach And Fellowship Elects Officers

By Bob Mangold

Lakeview Outreach and Fellowship (LOAF) elected officers for the 2024-2025 season during the November 2024 monthly meeting. The following officers took office immediately: Theresa Hutton (Bazetta Christian Church) President; Pastor Chuck Hargenrader (Cortland Nazarene Church) Vice President; Sandy Bailey (St Robert Church) Secretary; and Donna Pate (Cortland United Methodist Church) Treasurer.

In other news all are reminded the annual LOAF Christmas concert takes

place Sunday, December 15, 2 pm at Lakeview High School. The Cortland Community Band and Chorus will provide a program of Christmas music and song to be enjoyed by all. The event was moved to Sunday afternoon to encourage attendance by school-age children and eliminate night time driving for older members of our community. Donations will be accepted on behalf of the Salvation Army and will be used locally.

¹ I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.

² I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself.

³ You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant,

⁴ "I will establish your line forever and make your throne firm through all generations.'" [c]Psalm 89:1-4

We sometimes struggle with whether the love of God is big enough for us. we might look at the story of a God who came as a baby & think, ... That's great, but God didn't come for me. I am too broken/too messed up/too much for God.

Psalm 89: 1-4 is a reminder that, even in the mess of David's life, God was still faithful to him. It's an ultimate

illustration of the steadfast love of God for all. David is remembered as one of Israel's greatest kings even though one of his most memorable acts as king was abusing his power with Bathsheba & killing her husband as a cover up. The Bible later calls him a man after God's own heart?

Bathsheba is named in the Matt. 1 lineage as "the wife of Uriah," which is a direct reminder to the original hearers of David's sin against Bathsheba & Uriah and yet the steadfast love of God shows up in the mess.

The story is messy & full of brokenness & despair. It's recorded that God respond by sending Jesus through the line of David & Bathsheba. David's story is a redemptive story where once sin & brokenness sought to destroy, yet God continued to be faithful & ultimately brought about salvation through this messy, broken lineage.

If God can take this broken life of David & ultimately bring about redemption for the whole world, what can God do with our brokenness when we bring our lives before Jesus?

Jesus The Prince of Peace is born into mess. Christ was born into vulnerability. The incarnation story (God becoming man) is messy as well. Nothing looks how we would expect it to?

SCOPE Seniors Holiday Show

The SCOPE Senior Showcase Holiday show will be at the Robins Theatre on Saturday January 11th at 2 PM. Tickets are available at the box office on East Market St. or online at Robinstheatre.com. These performers as well as 80 others will participate in the Senior Showcase Talent Show.



12 Days Of Merry Mecca Christmas Continues

Day 9 - Saturday December 14 - Mystery Event - see online release

Day 10 - Monday Dec 16 - Saturday Dec 21 - Winter Wonderland Walk through at Mecca Community Church 6 pm - 9 pm

Day 11 - Friday December 20 - Christmas Candy Car-A-Van at 6:30 pm. All aboard Christmas Spectacular free drive-in movie 7 PM @ MCC

Day 12 - Saturday December 21 Christmas Concert by The Shirah Bros @ MCC

2024 12 Days Ornament Sales are available for \$8. Please refer to the 12 Days of Merry Mecca Christmas Facebook page for more details.

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Christmas Services at Lakeview Area Churches

The Churches of the Lakeview area welcome our community to observe the Reason for this Season with opportunities to gather Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Years.

Bazetta Christian Church Our annual Drive-thru Live Nativity is, Saturday, December 21, 4-7 pm. Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is Tuesday, December 24, 5 pm.

Calvary Bible Church - Dec. 15: Children's Christmas Musical 9:30 am; Dec. 22: Christmas Sunday Service 9:30 am; Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm

Cortland Christian Church - Candlelight Service Christmas Eve 7 pm

Cortland Church of the Nazarene will have a Christmas Eve Service, 6 pm.

Cortland United Methodist Church will have a Christmas Eve service at 7:00 pm. The Fowler United Methodist Church Xmas Eve service will be at 4:30 pm.

Journey Christian Church will have a Christmas Eve Service at 4 pm.

The Mecca Community Church will have a Christmas Eve service at 4 pm.

The Prince of Peace Lutheran Church religious service will be Christmas Eve, starting at 7 pm. Service will include open communion and lighting of the candles by all in attendance.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church will have the following services: Advent Midweek Meal and Services: December 18th, meal 5:30 pm, service 6:30 pm; Our Christmas Eve Service will be at 5:30 pm; The Christmas Day Service is at 10:15 am. Epiphany Service Jan 6th, at 5:30 pm.

Wildare Church Christmas Eve Service 6 pm. Candlelight, Children's message, Christmas songs and a message by Pastor Steve Anderson.



Katharina's Closet Distribution Day

By Rev Robert Wacker

Katharina's Closet, a ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church in Warren is grateful for all the support received from those in the Ohio District and elsewhere in the LCMS. November 21 was our first distribution and it went well. We were able to share God's love with several families who came and received aid. We also had the opportunity to be on WYTV out of Youngstown, to share about Trinity and Katharina's Closet.

Our second distribution will take place sometime after the New Year. We are continually in need of diapers (esp. larger sizes 4-8), wipes, and baby clothes. If you would like to donate, please contact Pastor Wacker at 330-647-6402. Thank you again for the support and encouragement! We look forward to continuing serving our community together.



Lisa Hall, Carol Migliozzi, and Linda Smith.

Cortland Christian Church Craft Show

By Joyce Hall

What a wonderful day for our Holiday Craft Fair at Cortland Christian Church. When you walk into the large fellowship hall filled with crafters and vendors selling all kinds of fun and interesting items. Dolls that looked and felt like real babies. Lots of Christmas decorations for outside and of course, many ornaments and wreaths for inside. A large display of baked goods were for sale and Sour Dough bread was a new item at our sale, blankets to decorate with and also to keep you warm in frigid temperatures. And many fun items for kids and adults. There were many new crafters and vendors this year which gave the craft show a different look.

This Craftshow has been in existence for over 15 years on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. It's a great time to start your shopping or to finish with those smaller gifts for stockings or for someone special. Lunch was available and almost sold out.

Raffle baskets are always a hit and we had many. Even a free raffle which is fun everyone gets a chance. We will be around again next year with some surprises.

You could hear melodious sounds coming from a "Bowed Psaltery" played by Eleanor Clower of Fowler. In the bible David played this instrument by plucking the strings, Eleanor used a "Bow" to slide over the strings on her instrument. What a beautiful time of year. The sights, the sounds and the aromas of cookies baking make this a special time of year.

Let us thank our Savior for all we have. On Christmas Eve we are going to have a special evening of prayer, scripture and lots of Christmas Hymns. So make plans and come out that evening to our church service. At 7 PM. Share the Birth of our Savior.

Cortland Christian Church Holiday Craft Fair

Gingerbread Winners

11-14 year olds—

Diana Martin and Jackson Miller

Other winners:

Up-10years—Sarah Miller

18-Up—Jamie Pate

Thanks to all our young people for their participation.

There were 12 entries, many in each category. Very creative young friends. Each category received a cash reward.



This family had 4 tables at our craft Fair., Four generations of crafters. The Mother-Sarah May, 3 daughters in back row, Connie Herrick, Barbara Rosier and Karen Thomas, Crysta Shardy- Grand daughter. Johnny Shardy- Great Grandson. This is truly a talented family.

Church News & Notes

Bazetta Christian Church is hosting their annual **LIVE NATIVITY SCENE** on Saturday, Dec 21 from 4 to 7 PM. There will be a live camel, a Roman Centurion on horseback, other live animals and of course live actors portraying Jesus, Mary, Joseph and others. The event is **FREE** drive through event for the entire family.

Cortland United Methodist Church will be the host site for a **Community Blue Christmas Service** at 2:00 pm on

Sunday 12/22. This is a service designed for those in our community who are struggling to feel joy in this season for any reason. It will be a quiet, reflective, hope-filled time that celebrates Christmas without pressuring anyone to act happier than they truly are. If this sounds like something you need, you are welcome to join us, even if you are not normally a churchgoer.

They will also host their monthly "God Provides A Meal" on December 21, from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. Menu: Stuffed pork chop, mashed potatoes and gravy, carrots, dessert & beverage.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church - Birthday Party for Jesus: You are invited to join us in celebrating with a party, the birth of our Lord Jesus on Dec. 15th following service at 11:30 am. We will have cake, food, story time, and other fun activities. Hope you can make it. Please RSVP to Pastor Wacker at 330-647-6402, text or call.

Katharine's Closet: We are in regular need of diapers, wipes and baby clothes. Monetary donations are accepted for use in purchasing said items. If you can't make donation night and you have a donation, please contact Pastor Wacker at 330-647-6402.

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Pastor Email: pastortrinitywarren@gmail.com
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Lakeview School News

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Winter School Band Concerts

The Lakeview school bands and choir are offering FREE winter concerts to the public. All are held in the High School Auditorium.

- Dec. 14th 6:00 p.m. 8th grade band and choir concert
- Dec. 14th 7:00 p.m. High School Band and Choir Concert

Come support our children and enjoy an evening of great music!

TODAY!!

From the Desk of the Superintendent A Picture Of Lakeview's Expenses, By Category

The Board of Education approved the submission of our financial Five Year Forecast at their November meeting. As part of our ongoing commitment to transparency and strategic planning, the forecast provides a detailed look at our projected revenue, expenditures, and funding needs over the next five years, helping us plan for long-term financial stability while continuing to support our students and staff. The forecast includes considerations for rising costs, state funding trends, and potential investments in our educational programs and facilities. By proactively addressing our financial outlook, we can ensure that we make informed decisions that balance fiscal responsibility with the needs of our

Continued on page 18

Class of 2025 Spotlight Bulldog

By Michael DeToro

This tri-weekly installment will spotlight an outstanding graduating senior at Lakeview High School. Each showcased student will be someone who represents their family, Lakeview Schools, and most importantly, our Bazetta/Cortland community with integrity, commitment, and loyalty.

This issue's Spotlight Bulldog is Meliah Persino, an exceptional student and the daughter of Gary and Jennifer Persino. Meliah, who began her Lakeview journey in fourth grade, is currently ranked in the top half of her graduating class with an impressive 3.4 GPA. She excels in both her high school courses and college-level classes through Youngstown State University.

A talented artist, Meliah has earned numerous accolades during her high school career under the guidance of Lakeview art teacher Jeff Piper. Her awards include being a two-time winner of the Salvation Army's "Art of the Red Kettle" contest, second place at the 2024 Trumbull County Educational Service Center Art Show, a Silver Key at the 2024 Scholastic Art Show, and a juror's award at the Medici Museum. Her work is currently on display at the Cortland Branch of the Warren-Trumbull County Public Library, thanks to Lakeview's partnership with the library system.

Next year, Meliah plans to pursue a degree in Interior Design, where her creativity and dedication are sure to shine.

Get to know Meliah better with a quick 60-second rapid-fire interview.

1. What is something that you do exceptionally well? - Art, I guess.
2. What is your favorite part of the Lakeview Local School District? The staff
3. Where is your favorite place to eat in Bazetta/Cortland? - I really like the Four Star Diner.
4. Where is your favorite place to hang out in Bazetta/Cortland? - When I was younger, we would always go down to the lake.
5. Describe your fashion style. - I like fashion and I care about my style but I don't know how to describe it.
6. You might catch me ... - Hanging out with my friends.
7. What is something you are watching, listening to, or reading right now? - I'm watching Game of Thrones for the first time.
8. What are your future aspirations? - I want to become an interior designer

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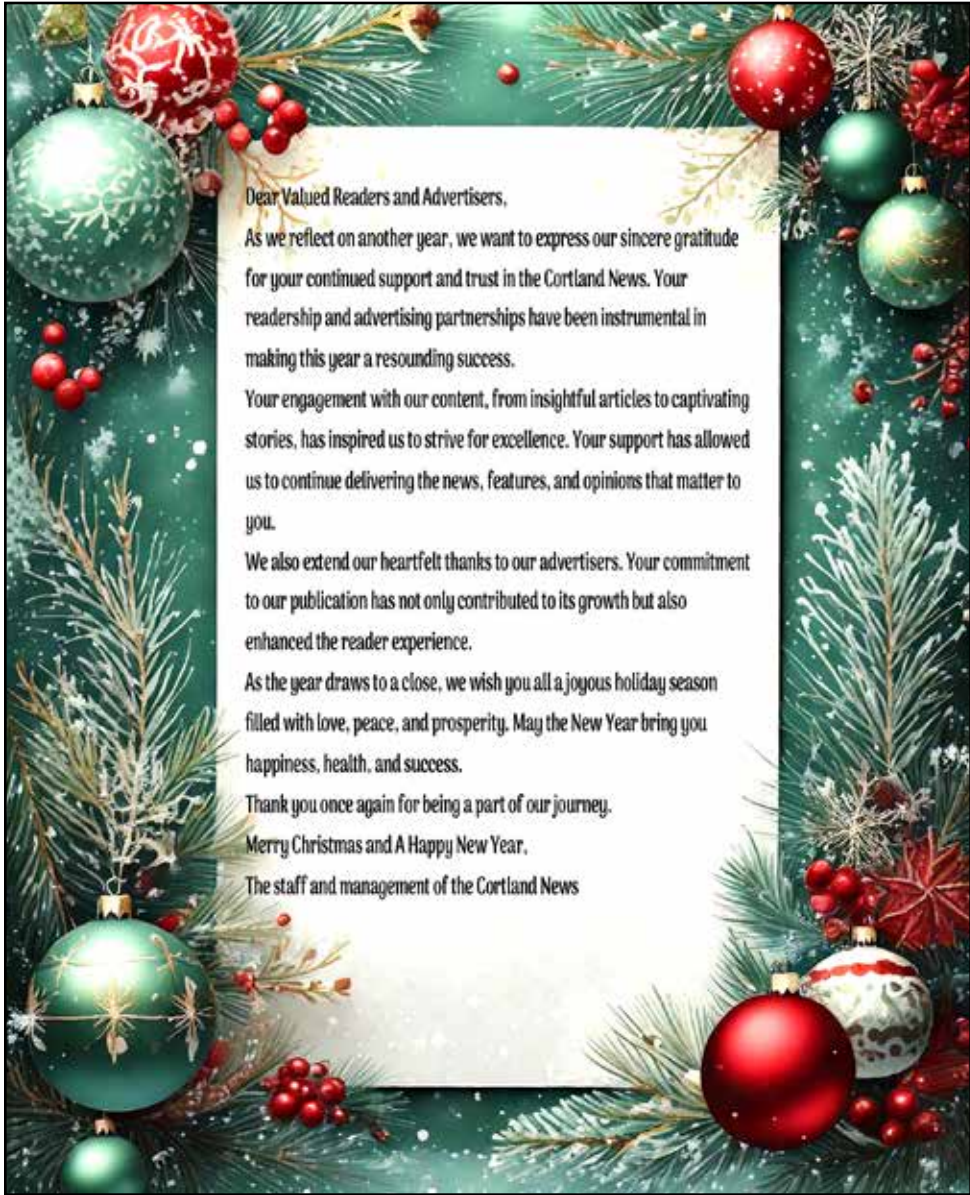
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We also extend our heartfelt thanks to our advertisers. Your commitment to our publication has not only contributed to its growth but also enhanced the reader experience.

As the year draws to a close, we wish you all a joyous holiday season filled with love, peace, and prosperity. May the New Year bring you happiness, health, and success.

Thank you once again for being a part of our journey.
Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year.
The staff and management of the Cortland News

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TCTC Celebrates Signing Day For Two Standout Student-Athletes

On Friday, November 15, TCTC hosted an exciting Signing Day event to celebrate two remarkable student-athletes, Gabrielle "Gabby" Gradishar and Addison "Addie" Warzala, both of whom have committed to play college softball at prestigious universities.

Gabby Gradishar, a pitcher from Champion High School, has committed to continue her athletic career at Penn State University, while Addie Warzala, a catcher also from Champion High School, will join Slippery Rock University's softball program.

athlete and is enrolled in TCTC's Exercise Science & Sports Medicine program, where she serves as a Student Ambassador and earned her PTTC Certification.



Addison Warzala has also had an outstanding career at Champion High School, where she helped her high school team secure district championships in 2023 and 2024 and reach the regional finals both years. Addie, a versatile athlete, posted impressive stats last season, hitting .500 with 10 home runs, 40 RBIs, 17 doubles, and 3 triples. Her all-around performance earned her 2nd

Continued on page 13



Gabrielle Gradishar has proven herself as one of the top softball players in the region, earning numerous accolades throughout her high school career. A key player for Champion High School, Thunder Elite, and the Outlaws, Gabby helped lead her high school team to back-to-back district championships in 2023 and 2024. Last season, she set a Champion High School record with 23 home runs, and her impressive stats include a .640 batting average, 51 RBIs, 10 doubles, and 3 triples. In the circle, Gabby posted an outstanding 20-4 record with a 1.05 ERA and struck out 278 batters in 133.2 innings. Among her many honors, Gabby was named YSN Offensive Player of the Year, MaxPreps Ohio High School Athlete of the Week, and earned 2nd Team All American and MVAC MVP recognition. Gabby also excels in the classroom as a scholar-

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How To Pass Along A Tradition Of Giving To Your Children

As an advisor, I often receive questions from my clients who want to help pass along a tradition of giving. If you're looking to impart financial values to your children, here are some ideas on how you can open their eyes to the gift of giving.

Talk about why you give. Help your child understand the importance of giving to others in need. Talk early and often about why sharing your knowledge, abilities, possessions or wealth matters to you. Instilling a culture of giving in your family is a process, not a one-time event. Remember to embrace the joy of giving, doing your best not to make giving back feel like a homework assignment or chore.

Find causes your child cares about. Your child is more likely to develop a habit of giving back when he or she is passionate about the cause. Start by brainstorming the possibilities of who your child can help, such as their classmates, animals, the environment or individuals experiencing hunger - and encourage them to think about ways they can be of assistance. Do they love to bake or meet new people? Do they enjoy music or caring for animals? Next, help your child choose one or two charities whose missions reflect their interests. Involve older children in the search and vetting process, teaching them how to have confidence that a charity is doing its best to help the cause.

Give and volunteer together. When your children see you volunteering your

time, talent and treasure, they see your values at work. Find ways to involve your children in your own giving. With the holiday season in full swing, consider volunteering or purchasing gifts for another family together. Your children will learn first-hand how rewarding giving to others can feel, and you'll have the bonus of creating family memories to cherish, too.

Encourage disciplined saving. Kids need to learn how to manage their own money in order to become responsible givers as they grow older. When your children get an allowance, or otherwise receive money, they can practice making responsible choices. Introduce the idea of "save, share and spend" - setting aside a portion of their money for the future, a portion to help others and a portion for fun spending.

Create a family foundation. Consider establishing a foundation to fund causes you care about. Formalizing your giving in this way can create ongoing opportunities for you and your children to make a lasting impact on the community. Talk to your financial advisor for advice regarding establishing a foundation and leaving a legacy of service to the next generation.

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Cortland Lions Club Donates 20 Turkeys To The Warren Family Mission

The Cortland Lions Club donated 20 Turkeys to the Warren Family Mission for their annual Thanksgiving Dinner for those in need. Pictured delivering the turkeys to the Mission-Dawna Wiland-Club President, Kelly

Smith a member's wife and Members David Kovacs and John David.

We can make this and many other donations due to the support of our surrounding communities in our Fund-Raising Projects. Thank you.



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Medicare's Annual Enrollment Period (AEP) Is Over, Now What?

Medicare's Annual Enrollment Period ended December 7. If you made changes to your plan, you should be receiving detailed plan information for your new plan and your new insurance cards prior to the end of the year. If you did not switch plans, you should have received a summary of any changes the insurance company made to your current plan. Most plan changes during the Medicare Annual Enrollment Period will take effect on January 1. You will need to update your information with your medical providers and pharmacies. If you fill prescriptions through a mail order pharmacy, you will probably need to contact your physician or provider to obtain a new 90-day prescription to provide to the new mail order company. If you fill your prescriptions at a local pharmacy, you will simply need to provide them with the new card to update their billing information.

You can contact your agent if there are issues or surprises with your coverage that you were not aware of or if you have any questions concerning what your plan does or does not cover. You can also call the customer service number on your new card.

If you have higher costing medications, you may want to look into programs available help with the costs of those medications. If you have limited income and resources, you may want to apply for the Extra Help program offered through Medicare and Social Security. Also, several pharmaceutical companies offer assistance programs that provide medications at lower or no costs if you

qualify. Each company can set their own criteria to qualify but typically their income and resource limits are higher than those required to qualify for the Extra Help program. You can find specific information on the manufacturer's website. Many physicians have the forms or can get you the relevant information. You can also reach out to your insurance agent for information. Most manufacturers programs require you to reapply each year. If you are on one of these program this is the time to do so for 2025. Another option, if you qualify for Veterans' Administration services, you may want to look into getting your medications from the VA.

If there are changes to your personal circumstances throughout the year it is a good idea to review your plan and coverage with your agent. For example, if you move to a different county or state you will need to change to a plan offered in that area if your current plan is no longer available. If your income decreases, you may become eligible for help covering some medical or prescription costs. Conversely, if your income increases you may become subject to IRMAA, the income related monthly adjustment amount. IRMAA is an increase on your Part B and Part D premiums if your modified adjusted gross income from your tax return is above a certain amount.

Jill Freeman is a licensed insurance agent with Ann M Wiley Insurance Services, located at 3470 Warren Meadville Rd, Cortland. She can be reached at 234-244-4014 or JFreeman.WileyInsurance@gmail.com



The Federation of Trumbull County Women's Clubs meeting was held at the Warren SCOPE Senior Center in November. The lunch meeting included food from Sorrento's and entertainment from the upcoming Senior Showcase Talent show at the Robins Theatre in January. SCOPE's receptionist Carol Bovee sang for the group.

TCTC Celebrates... continued from page 11

Team All State and 1st Team All District honors in softball in 2024. Addie has been a standout player not only in softball but also in basketball, playing varsity for all four years of high school. Like Gabby, Addie is a dedicated student in the Exercise Science & Sports Medicine program at TCTC, where she serves as a Student Ambassador and also holds her PTIC certification.

TCTC Superintendent, Jason Gray and softball coaches from both Champion High School and Thunder Elite were in attendance to celebrate the accomplishments of these two exceptional athletes, who have not only excelled on the field but also demonstrated a commitment to academic success and leadership in their communities.

"We are incredibly proud of Gabby and Addie for their hard work, dedication, and outstanding achievements both in the classroom and on the field," said Jason Gray. "This marks an exciting moment in their athletic careers, and we look forward to watching them continue to excel at the collegiate level."

The Signing Day event highlighted the achievements of both athletes, as well as the strong partnership between TCTC and Trumbull County high schools like Champion. Gabby and Addie are exemplary role models, demonstrating the power of perseverance, teamwork, and dedication.

For more information on Trumbull Career & Technical Center, its programs, and future events, please visit www.tctchome.com



Steve Soroka who turned 100 recently was celebrated at the Warren SCOPE Center during Cornhole. His final two throws that day were both in the hole.

Christmas Concert

By Carole Wiley

This year's Christmas Concert is scheduled for Sunday, December 15th at 2:00 PM, at Lakeview High School auditorium. The concert originated and is supported by LOAF (Lakeview Outreach and Fellowship). The Cortland Community Band leads the concert. A group of residents who love to sing rehearse several weeks prior to the concert. Their leader/conductor is Michelle Robbins Jones. Michelle teaches a couple of new songs each year. They also sing familiar tunes.

The band continues to perform many Christmas carols. Cookies, made by the LOAF churches, are enjoyed by the many attendees following the performance. This is one of the perks enjoyed by our citizens: a free Christmas Concert, dozens of free cookies, and a wonderful opportunity to mingle with other residents. One other thing to look forward to is the audience joining with the musicians in singing several carols. For more people to attend, LOAF decided to hold the concert in the daytime on a weekend. Hopefully, students of all ages will attend.

Contact Carole Wiley for comments or questions. 330-720-9136 or cwiley9@yahoo.com.



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Girl Scouts Help... continued from page 7

Along with the material and monetary donations the girls each made a fleece dog mat for the shelter dogs. Healthy Hearts and Paws welcomed the donations and the Girl Scout spirit of hard work at the shelter as the girls hauled trash and walked dogs.

The girls would like to thank Jason Cooke and the volunteers of Healthy Hearts and Paws for their willingness to show the girls around the shelter and the community of Cortland for supporting the cause. The needs of the animals at Healthy Hearts and Paws are ever changing and never ending. The girls ask the community to remember the shelter this holiday season and every day throughout the year.

More information can be found at www.healthyheartsproject.org



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Adoption Day Just In Time For Christmas

By Thom Foley

As the Good News Newspaper we love to bring you stories that are, well, full of good news. This one brought a lot of joy to so many people and literally changed so many lives.

Judge James Fredericka of the Trumbull County Probate Court declared that November 22 would be Trumbull County Adoption Day in recognition of National Adoption Month. Every year the court picks a theme to go with the event. In the past there were Minions, Disney and other characters for children. This year it was "Get Powered Up For Adoption Day With Brothers Super Mario and Luigi."

Students from Warren Harding High School painted background cutouts for the event and even dressed as different characters from the game. WGH students Raylin Adams, Aaron Lawrence and Andrew Waldman had their artwork on display. WGH Art students: Minica Ruckman, Harmony Smith and Tyra Moore did face painting. All of this was to celebrate the

official adoption of brothers Colten Elliot Cetina and Silas Wesley Cetina by their new parents Ethan and Katelyn Cetina as well the adoption of Ellah-Marie Christie Kirk by her new parents, Logan and Shelby Kirk.

There was a very emotional and happy court proceedings with testimony from members of Trumbull County Children's Services and all 4 parents. Tears of joy were everywhere in the courtroom.

"There are different ways to build a family" said Judge Fredericka. "And this is one of the best ways. We need to change many of the myths of adoption." He cited statistics that show the need for adoptive parents nationwide and right here in Trumbull County.

He cited special thanks to everyone involved and encouraged all members of the community to look into and to support adoption.

You can be a super hero also if you support adoption.



Judge James Fredericka with the Cetina Family



Judge James Fredericka with the Kirk Family

Thank You From The Family Of Nick Stoian

On behalf of Nick Stoian's family, we would like to thank you so much for thinking of us during this difficult time and are all touched and blessed

by all the love and support we received after Nick's passing. We had no idea how many people and organizations would join us on our difficult journey, and we could have never imagined how comforting it would be to have such a loving community surrounding us. We would also like to especially thank the Lakeview School District, PTO and Lakeview Athletic Club for their support and generosity.

We appreciate immensely all the

Continued on page 16



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Non-Profit Tails Of Hope Offers Gifts That Give Back To Our Community

By Soraya Hejazi

Smokey Robinson (pictured), Tails of Hope's Office Cat, wants to thank everyone in our community for supporting our lifesaving mission. So far in 2024, Tails of Hope has provided almost 1,900 surgeries, over 3,500 vaccines and so much more for families and pets in need. Whether you're a client or a supporter, you are part of our lifesaving community, and we thank you.

You've probably already made your holiday gift list. Check it twice for the pet lovers on your list and give a unique and meaningful gift from the comfort of your own home. #HoHoHope for the

holidays and the annual Tails of Hope Holiday Fund Drive makes finding a gift for anyone easy! Simply make your year-end tax-deductible gift in of a loved one or "furkid" during December and your honoree will receive warm holiday feelings that they've saved and improved the life of a pet or homeless animal in need and helped keep families and pets together. Online donors can easily send an e-card to the gift recipient. So many more animals need our help. With rescues & shelters full, veterinary clinics overburdened, and without Spay/Neuter readily available and

affordable for everyone, litter after litter is left unwanted, abandoned, or worse. Tails of Hope, the only non-profit Spay/Neuter clinic in Mercer County, has served over 15,000 animals from Western PA & Eastern OH since their doors opened in 2017. We, invite you to share a share a little #HoHoHope to help save and improve the lives of four-legged loved ones for a local family.

Smokey Robinsons says, on behalf of all of us at Tails of Hope, "Sending you and yours the warmest wishes and cold nose kisses for the holidays and the new year!"

For more information, go to their website: TailsofHopeWPA.org



Do You Have An Old Lakeview, Cortland Or Bazetta School Yearbook?

By Curt Moll

The Historical Society is trying to collect a full set from each school, and we have a good start. Last year Lakeview High School donated many of the yearbooks from this century and members and friends have donated some from earlier times.

BUT - we are still missing many, we have no yearbooks from Bazetta School and nothing from Cortland School before 1949. We need Cortland yearbooks from 1951, 57 and 59-62. We need Lakeview yearbooks from 1963, 64, 68, 69, 72-80, 87, 90 and 97. If you would like to donate yearbooks or other materials, contact the Historical Society at info@cortlandohiohistory.org.

The school yearbooks are a part of our library collection available to the public for research in the Case Conference Room on the lower level of the Cortland Opera House. The books

are for use in the library and contain a wealth of information about the history of Bazetta, Cortland, Trumbull County and Ohio.

YES - The Cortland-Bazetta Historical Society is still active and meeting at 5pm on the second Wednesday of each month. Meetings are open to anyone, and we do not collect membership dues.

Visit our internet site at www.cortlandohiohistory.org to explore stories and photos of early Bazetta and Cortland.

We are always looking for volunteers interested in preserving our history and making it available to the public in museum displays and on the internet.

If you are interested in helping, contact the Society by email at info@cortlandohiohistory.org

Spreading Christmas Joy: United Way Celebrates This Holiday Season

By Lori Shandor, Vice President & Deputy CEO

The holiday season is a time for celebration, togetherness, and generosity. For the United Way of Trumbull County, it's also a time to strengthen our mission of being united in helping children and families thrive in Trumbull County. This Christmas, the United Way of Trumbull is working tirelessly to ensure that every family in our community experiences the magic of the season, no matter their

circumstances.

The United Way of Trumbull County extends its gratitude to everyone who makes these efforts possible. The kindness and compassion of the community members show the true spirit of Christmas: giving back and caring for one another. As we gather with loved ones this holiday season, let's remember that no gesture is too small to make a big impact. Whether it's a can of food, a wrapped toy, or a few hours of your time, your contribution could make all the difference for a family in need.

For more information on how you can support United Way's initiatives or get involved, visit www.unitedwaytrumbull.org or call our office at (330)369-1000.


Together, we can make this a season of joy for everyone in our community.

Merry Christmas, Trumbull County!



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Dreaming Of A Jewish Christmas

Documentary tells the story of a group of Jewish songwriters who wrote the soundtrack to Christmas

The Youngstown Area Jewish Film Festival is presenting "Dreaming of a Jewish Christmas" from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 15 at the JCC of Youngstown, 505 Gypsy Lane.

"Dreaming of a Jewish Christmas" is a musical documentary that tells the story of a group of Jewish songwriters who wrote the soundtrack to Christmas.

A vegetarian Chinese food meal will be served. Participants wearing their favorite holiday sweater will have a chance to win a door prize. A short holiday sing-along will follow the film.

The cost is \$18 which includes the movie and meal. Registration is required by Dec. 12. Visit jccyoungstown.org/adultprograms to register.



Pawsitivity - The Night Before Adoption

'Twas the night before adoption, and all through the shelter,
Not a creature was stirring, not even the cat named "Chester."
The kennels were lined with pets waiting for love,
Hoping for the forever families they dreamt of.
The puppies were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of treats danced around in their heads.
And kitties in cages, with eyes shining bright,
Dreamed of new homes to scamper around in at night.
When out in the yard there arose such a clatter,
The pets sprang from their beds to see what was the matter.
Away to the window, they darted with glee,
Paws on the glass, as hopeful as could be.
The moon on the snow gave a soft, glowing light,
And the sound of the doorbell rang clear through the night.
When what to the pets' wondering eyes should appear,
But a smiling volunteer with a big bag of cheer!
With a wag of her finger and a twinkle of her eye,

She said, "Don't worry, your homes are nearby!"
She gave them all toys and called out with delight,
"Tonight, we find families to make everything right!"
"Now, Rover! Now, Fluffy! Now, Whiskers and Spot!
We'll find you all families, you'll be loved a whole lot!
I'll share your sweet photos, I'll tell your tale true,
And soon someone's heart will be given to you!"
Then she opened the doors and called out with cheer,
"Come meet these sweet pets, who are waiting right here!"
One by one, the pets found a place to belong,
Their hearts full of love, their spirits now strong.
And when the last pet was adopted with a happy little heart,
She declared, "Happy adoption to all, and to all a new start!"

I hope you enjoyed this adaptation of the poem of The Night Before Christmas! Wishing you a very happy holiday season in the coming weeks. Remember to adopt (don't shop!) if you're looking to add a pet to your family and be kind to animals.

Email questions, feedback, or suggestions for future topics to Hello. Pawsitivity@gmail.com.



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Thank You

...continued from page 14

kind messages, calls, visits, flowers and food; it really means a lot to us. Please know that we will keep your thoughts in our hearts always. We also cannot begin to express how thankful we are for your extremely generous donations to the Go Fund Me fund, the Grace Chapel Community Church and to me and my children's (Mason-7, Ronin-3 & Mina's-1) welfare. We have used some of the financial donations to set up educational funds for them in the future.

Thank you for your continued support, thoughts and prayers through this holiday season.

Love, Jennifer, Mason, Ronin and Mina Stoian; The Cvengros and Stoian Families

YSU Wide Receiver Partners With The Rich Center For Autism

By Jake Ellis

Max Tomczak, wide receiver for the YSU football team, partnered with The Friends of The Rich Center for Autism during the Penguins 2024 season. His willingness to learn about autism and interact with students, families, and staff of The Rich Center has had a profound impact by generating awareness throughout campus and the community.

Autism, a 501(c)(3) that strives to raise funds, promote and support the center. The Rich Center for Autism was established in 1995 through the collaborative efforts of the Kosar, Rich (Ricchiuti), and Rubino families who have a shared interest in autism. The Rich Center for Autism, a component of the Youngstown State University

base through the promotion of scholarly research; and to provide public service and advocacy on behalf of those affected by autism. The Rich Center for Autism has no geographic boundary and accepts children of all socio-economic backgrounds and cultures. Children are enrolled in the programs regardless of their caregivers' ability to pay. Referral,



treatment, and support are provided at no cost to families.



"Anytime we have someone with a genuine interest in learning about The Rich Center and what autism is helps us achieve our mission," Community Engagement Coordinator Jake Ellis said. "It's especially helpful when someone like Max comes along and is willing to use his visibility to help put The Rich Center in the limelight."

Max Tomczak has been having a breakout year as Youngstown State's best receiver tallying more than 800 yards and 60 receptions through only 11 games. However, this fall he decided to make some contributions off the field as well.

"I came to The Rich Center and learned so much about the kids and what autism is," Tomczak said. "I got to know them each personally as individuals. It was nice to be able to come to The Rich Center and have the kids want to play with me and spend time with me. It was like for once I wasn't just a football player."

Tomczak will be wearing a custom designed pair of cleats during the Penguins final home game against Northern Iowa on November 16th. The shoes are decorated with puzzle pieces, the number 4 (Tomczak's number), and bears The Rich Center for Autism's name.

"We couldn't be more thrilled with how Max has established himself as part of The Rich Center family," Ellis said. "He's been a nearly weekly visitor to the Center and has spent time having lunch with our students, playing with them on the playground, joining them in their classrooms and has been a tremendous advocate for creating awareness and understanding of autism."

It is The Rich Center's hope that with the help of student-athlete ambassadors such as Max, the Center can continue to provide services to those in the Youngstown region and be a resource for all of Ohio. This collaboration is possible through the efforts from donors to The Friends of The Rich Center for

Beeghly College of Liberal Arts, Social Sciences, & Education, fulfills the mission to prepare educators, medical specialists and other professionals lines for teaching and caring for those on the autism spectrum; to increase knowledge

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Vienna Historical Society

The Vienna Historical Society has a tree decorated at the McKinley Birthplace Memorial Museum in Niles for the annual Festival of Trees. It's free to view the trees! Vote for your favorite if you can attend this season. The trees may be viewed during normal operating hours from 9 AM to 4 PM, Tuesdays through Fridays until December 27. Many thanks to Jeff Ford for decorating the tree on the Society's behalf!



December & January Cortland Library Events

By Apryl Gilliss

Holiday Closings - All Warren-Trumbull County Public Library locations will be closed Tuesday, Dec. 24 and Wednesday, Dec. 25 for Christmas. All Warren-Trumbull County Public Library locations and services will close early at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 31 and be closed all day on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025 for the New Year's holiday. Also we will be closed on Monday, Jan. 20 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Make a Zwiirknopf Button
Sat., Dec. 14 from 1 – 3 p.m. Kathy Kovell from the Lacers of the Lake group will teach the art of crafting a unique, colorful button using traditional techniques. All materials will be provided for this craft for adults. Registration is required; call (330) 638-6335 to sign up. Free.

Toddler Tales
Mondays at 10 a.m.: Jan. 6, 13, 27 A fun and active story time for toddlers ages 19 – 35 months with a parent or caregiver. Free.

Preschool Storytime
Tuesdays at 10 a.m.: Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28 Preschool story time features stories, songs, and movement activities and reinforces the development of early literacy skills. For children ages 3 – 5 with a parent or caregiver. Free.

Midweek Mayhem
Wednesdays at 3 p.m.: Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29 Teens ages 12 – 18 can enjoy games, activities, and a small snack at the library's weekly teen hangout! Free.

Homework Hangout
Thurs., Jan. 9 from 3 – 4 p.m. Teens ages 12 – 18 can take time to study, read, or write that paper while listening to calming music and sipping tea! Free.

Create a Refrigerator Magnet
Sat., Jan. 11 from 1 – 2 p.m. Adults can

turn holiday cards, wrapping paper, and more small seasonal items into lovely refrigerator magnets. Participants can bring their own materials or use the library's provided patterns to create a magnet with this unique, eco-friendly way to celebrate the season all year! All supplies will be provided. Registration is required. To sign up, call the library at (330) 638-6335. Free.

Teen Advisory Board
Tues., Jan. 14 from 4 – 5:30 p.m. Teens ages 12 – 18 can join the Teen Advisory Board to share what they'd like to see at the library, earn service hours, and collaborate on creative ideas. Free.

Family LEGO Night
Thurs., Jan. 16 from 6 – 7 p.m. Children can practice problem-solving and engineering skills while building with the library's collection of LEGO bricks. Finished projects will remain at the library. For families with children ages 3 and older. Free.

Sip & Paint for Teens
Thurs., Jan. 23 from 3 – 4 p.m. Teens ages 12 – 18 can enjoy a steaming cup of hot cocoa or warm tea while they paint or create using the library's various art supplies. Registration is required by Jan. 20 by calling the library at (330) 638-6335. Free.

Family Crafternoon
Sat., Jan. 25 between 2:30 – 4 p.m. Families with children ages 3 and older can let their imaginations run wild and make creative projects to take home. Call (330) 638-6335 or stop by the library a week before the event to find out what projects will be offered. Free.

Totally Tweens
Tues., Jan. 28 from 3 – 4 p.m. Tweens in grades 5 – 8 can let their creative juices flow with crafts and activities at the library. Free.



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Lakeview's Expenses...continued from page 10

school community. This article takes a look at the breakdown of our operating costs and how our funding is utilized.

78% Personnel - The largest of the district's expenses, 78% of the budget is invested in its personnel. This is typical across all school districts, since we are in the "people business" and people are a learning community's main resource for its students.

14% Purchased Services - The next largest expense category is for the district's purchased services. These are expenses for services that the district cannot provide in-house. The largest purchase service expense is for district students attending outside or offsite programs, offsite special education facilities and the cost of our State mandated College Credit Plus program.

8% Supplies & Other - This portion of the district's budget is spent

on classroom supplies, Chromebooks, maintenance and building supplies. This category also includes money set aside from the general fund to consider capital projects. The district recently made a plan to address the costly upkeep of Lakeview High School and how we can continue to upkeep that building.

Cash Balance - One of the things that we monitor closely as a school district is the amount of cash we have in the bank. We want to ensure that we have enough money on hand to carry the district through periods of deficit spending as the end of a levy cycle approaches. On the flip side, it is important that we make sure we have a strong plan in place for how the funds we collect are used, to ensure we are using taxpayer money appropriately and responsibly.

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